

National 5 Environmental Science (Course Code: C826 75)

SCQF Level 5 (24 Credit Points)

Why study Environmental Science?

Environmental scientists are involved in tackling issues such as global climate change, pollution, use of land and water resources and changes in wildlife habitats. It involves an understanding of scientific principles, economic influences and political action.

This course provides a broad and up to date selection of ideas relevant to the central position of environmental science in society. You will investigate key areas of the living environment such as biodiversity and interdependence.

The skills that you learn while studying Environmental Science, such as investigating, critical thinking, project management and survey techniques, are valuable in a wide variety of industry sectors including renewable energy, forestry and environmental conservation and agriculture.

Career Pathways

To see what career areas this subject could lead to and the routes to get there, download and view these career pathways:

[Animals, Land and Environment](#)

[Information, Culture and Heritage](#)

[Science and Maths](#)

What do I need to get in?

Entry is at the discretion of the school or college but you would normally have achieved one of the following:

- National 4 Biology
- National 4 Chemistry
- National 4 Environmental Science
- National 4 Geography
- National 4 Physics
- National 4 Science

What will I study?

Environmental science is an interdisciplinary subject, which draws from science and social science subjects. You will learn about how we use the Earth's resources, different ways of producing energy, and the effects of global climate change. This will help you to make your own decisions on contemporary issues where scientific knowledge is constantly developing.

The course comprises **three** areas of study.

Living environment

You will study:

- investigating ecosystems and biodiversity
- human influences on biodiversity.

Earth's resources

You will study:

- an overview of Earth systems and their interactions
- the geosphere
- the hydrosphere
- the biosphere
- the atmosphere.

Sustainability

You will study:

- an introduction to sustainability
- food
- water
- energy
- waste management.

How will I be assessed?

Course Assessment

The course assessment has **two** components totalling **120 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper – worth 100 marks (consisting of 3 sections; Section 1 worth 66 marks, Section 2 worth 20 marks and Section 3 worth 14 marks)
- Component 2: assignment – worth 20 marks.

For the assignment you will carry out an experiment or fieldwork procedure and investigate a topic relevant to environmental science, which should draw on one or more of the key areas of the course. You will then produce a report on your findings.

Both the assignment component and the question paper will be set and externally marked by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

The grade awarded is based on the total marks achieved across all course assessment components.

The course assessment is graded A-D.

Study Materials

- [SQA Past Papers Environmental Science National 5](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper Environmental Science National 5](#)
- [SQA Understanding Standards Environmental Science](#)

What can I go on to next?

If you complete the course successfully, it may lead to:

- **Higher Environmental Science**

Further study, training or employment in:

- Animals, Land and Environment
- Environmental Services
- Offshore and Energy
- Science and Mathematics
- Town and Regional Planning